

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Support for amended Claim 1 can be found in specification at paragraph [0013]. Applicant's submission filed on 09/04/2009 has been entered.
2. Applicant's arguments and Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132, filed 09/04/2009, with respect to claim rejection under §103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The claim rejections under §103 of claims 1-8 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-8 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-8 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
The present claims are allowed over the closest references: Berkhof et al. (US 5164116 A).

Berkhof et al. disclose oil breaking components having component of formula: $[\text{HO}-\text{(C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_d\text{(C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_e]_k-\text{R}'-\text{[(C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_f\text{(C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_g\text{H}]_l$, wherein R' (e.g. core) is a C₁₋₄ alkyl polyol having degree of alkoxylation of from 10 to 80 per free OH group; the propylene oxide content is between 20 and 90 wt %; *k* is 1 or 2; and *l* is 1 or 2 (column 4, lines 57-68). Suitable difunctional crosslinkers for preparing the crosslinked compounds include: diisocyanates and dicarboxylic

acids (column 5, lines 34-45). The amount of demulsifier to be employed for breaking crude oil emulsion is 1 to 5,000 ppm, i.e. 0.0001 to 0.5 % (column 4, lines 25-27).

However, Berkhof et al. do not teach or fairly suggest the claimed method to use the crosslinked alkoxylated **polyglycerol (e.g. core)**, said **polyglycerol** being the product of an acid- or alkali-catalyzed condensation of glycerol at temperatures between 200°C and 300°C, which is crosslinked with a multifunctional electrophilic compound having a molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000 units measured by gel permeation chromatography with standard polyethylene glycol and comprising **5 to 100 glycerol units** which are alkoxylated with C2-C4-alkylene oxide groups or a mixture of such alkylene oxide groups so that the crosslinked alkoxylated polyglycerol has a degree of alkoxylation of from 1 to 100 alkylene oxide units per free OH group.

There is no prior art of record, alone or in combination teach or fairly suggest the claimed method for demulsifying an oil/water emulsion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571)270-5459. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday w/alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on 571-272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ling-Siu Choi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/Chun-Cheng Wang/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/CCW/